

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-36.(Cancelled).

37. (New) An *in vitro* method for detecting human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) endogenous reverse transcriptase (RT) activity comprising:

- (a) purifying HIV-1 from infected cells;
- (b) lysing the HIV-1 with detergent to activate endogenous RT activity;
- (c) incubating the HIV-1 lysate of step (b) under reaction mixture conditions that facilitate reverse transcription; and
- (d) detecting the cDNA product formed by the RT in step (c).

38. (New) The method of claim 37, comprising preparing a supernatant from the infected cells.

39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the reaction mixture conditions comprise a labeled nucleotide.